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Recommended Citation

Weinstein, Mark D., "Cedarville Programming Team Qualifies for World Finals" (2016). *News Releases*. 365.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 29, 2016

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Cedarville Programming Team Qualifies for World Finals

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – Cedarville University computer science students Nathan Harold, Timothy Smith and Jon Easterday qualified for the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) World Finals. The pinnacle event for computer science students will be held May 20-25 in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Cedarville University will be one of 132 teams competing in the finals. The programming team is coached and advised by Dr. David Gallagher, professor of computer science at Cedarville University.

"This is very exciting," said Harold, a senior from Novi, Michigan. "The ICPC World Finals will undoubtedly be a rare experience — and afterward, a memory to carry for years to come."

ICPC is the largest, oldest and most prestigious computer programming competition in the world. Last year, 13,422 teams from more than 2,700 schools and 102 countries competed for a spot in the World Finals competition.

The qualification comes after Cedarville's strong performance in Cincinnati in October as part of a regional competition. The team placed sixth, ahead of larger universities like Purdue, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Penn State and Carnegie Mellon.

The ICPC regional contest gave the three-member team a series of ten complex, real-world programming problems. Within the five-hour allotted time period the team solved eight problems – its best performance to date.

"Dr. Gallagher practically built the team and has heavily invested in us," said Easterday, a senior from Largo, Florida. "He has consistently reminded us that our top priority is not to win or beat everyone else, but to faithfully represent Cedarville University – and by extension, God – in our words and actions."

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,760 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 100 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.